districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra are to be included in AIBP in relaxation of one to one norm for inclusion of new projects under AIBP. The Union Government is providing grant amounting to 90% of project cost included in AIBP, if a project is identified as benefiting drought prone/tribal area by the Planning Commission. These relaxations are made in order to accelerate creation of irrigation potential as well as completion of identified projects under AIBP.

The Bharat Nirmah plan seeks to create 10 million ha of irrigation potential by 2009. Creation of additional irrigation potential under Bharat Nirman intends to increase foodgrain production in the country to meet its increasing demand.

Disputes over Mullaperiyar river

1625. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated discussion at the level of Chief Ministers of Kerala and Karnataka for finding a solution to the dispute over Mullaperiyar Water;

(b) if so, what are the results thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Kerala has agreed to give water to Tamil Nadu as before and wanted a new Dam to be constructed at Mullaperiyar for ensuring safety of life and properties of people of Kerala, atleast in several districts of Kerala; and

(d) what is the present stage of talk which has been dead locked and what further initiative is being contemplated by the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Union Minister (WR) convened an inter-State meeting of the Chief Ministers of States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala on Mullaperiyar dam issue on 29.11.2006 at New Delhi. The meeting was attended by the Chief Ministers, Ministers (WR/PW) of the two States as well as Senior Officers

of the Ministry of Water Resources, Central Water Commission and States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The States of Tamil Nadu & Kerala reiterated their respective stands in the meeting. They have also agreed to discuss the issue further in a meeting under the auspices of Hon'ble Union Minister (WR) with the Ministers (WR/PW) from the States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

(c) Chief Minister of Kerala made a statement in the meeting that proposal of Government of Kerala to have a new dam as a replacement to the old dam would provide water to the people of Tamil Nadu and remove the shadow of fear from the minds of people of Kerala.

(d)As decided in the meeting on 29.11.2006, Union Minister for Water Resources convened another inter-State meeting on 18.12.2006 of Minister of (PW/WR) of Tamil Nadu and Kerala in which no solution acceptable to both the States emerged.

Cauvery river water disputes tribunal

1626. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently the Cauvery River Water Disputes Tribunal announced its final order;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Karnataka feels let-down by the Tribunal's verdict over sharing of water of Cauvery River between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, the major parties to the dispute, since a lion's share of the water goes to Tamil Nadu to the detriment of Karnataka;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Central Government is considering to bring all parties to the dispute to a round table to resolve the issue amicably through discussion with an open mind; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal submitted report and decision under